

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ACDA-07 DHA-02 DODE-00 EB-07
NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01
/070 W

-----190941Z 070299 /21

R 182044Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3228
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

S E C R E T MANAGUA 2357

E. O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SHUM, PFOR, NU
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT SOMOZA REACTS TO SUSPENSION SMALL ARMS SALES

REF: A. STATE 110196; B. MANAGUA 1506; C. MANAGUA 2346

1.DURING OTHERWISE CORDIAL TWO-HOUR LUNCH AT PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, SOMOZA STRONGLY CRITICIZED DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO DENY LICENSES FOR EXPORT OF LIGHT ARMS AND AMMUNITION ON CASH BASIS TO NICARAGUA (REFTEL A). HE ASKED RHETORICALLY "ARE THE UNITED STATES AND NICARAGUA AT WAR?" SUCH ACTION IS, HE DECLARED, TANTAMOUNT TO CLASSIFYING NICARAGUA AS A HOSTILE COUNTRY.

2. SOMOZA SAID THAT HE WANTED A CLARIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT POLICY ON EXPORT LICENSES BEFORE PURCHASING ARMS AND AMMUNITION ELSEWHERE. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) HAD RIGHT TO NOT PROVIDE FMS CREDIT FOR THE EXPORT OF ARMS, BUT HE FAILED TO GRASP THE RATIONALE FOR NOT LICENSING EXPORTS OF SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS. HE ALSO STATED THAT THESE RES-

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TRICTIVE ARMS SALES PRACTICES CREATED INTENSE ANTAGONISM IN MILITARY CIRCLES, CONFIRMED THAT THE USG IS NOT A RELIABLE ARMS SUPPLIER, LED TO PURCHASE OF THESE ARMS ELSEWHERE, AND WOULD NOT AFFECT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. HE CONCLUDED BY ASKING WHAT CONCEIVABLE U.S. INTEREST WAS SERVED BY A POLICY WHICH NOT ONLY DID NOT ACHIEVE ITS AIMS BUT ALIENATED THE ARMED FORCES AND GOVERNMENTS OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.

3. WE ASSURED SOMOZA THAT HIS VIEWS WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT ANY CHANGE IN OUR ARMS POLICY TOWARDS NICARAGUA WOULD BE BROUGHT TO HIS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

4. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT WAS CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY EXCEPT WHEN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE. HIS ANGER WAS UNDER COMPLETE CONTROL BUT HE CLEARLY CONSIDERED U.S. ARMS POLICY TO BE UNINTELLIGENT AND COUNTER PRODUCTIVE. HE RETURNED AGAIN AND AGAIN TO QUESTION OF WHAT U.S. HOPED TO GAIN FROM SUCH A POLICY. HE FORESAW SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA AND LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AND IMPETUS GIVEN TO ANTI-U.S. LATIN BLOC STEMMING FROM U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AND TACTICS. EMBASSY VIEWS ON GON SECURITY CONCERNS, U.S. ARMS POLICY AND PUNITIVE HUMAN RIGHTS DIPLOMACY ARE CONTAINED IN REFTELS B AND C.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMALL ARMS, MUNITIONS CONTROLS, EXPORT LICENSES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770178-0412
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770544/aaaabmbt.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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